

# HISTORIC SITE

## The Gas Works

This is the former site of the city's gas works, constructed about 1870 by the Peterborough Gas Company under Frederick E. Bell (18xx-18yy). By 1885 about 14 kilometres of gas mains and some 100 gas street lamps had been installed. Coal gas, a fuel consisting mostly of hydrogen, methane and the poisonous carbon monoxide, was generated by the destructive distillation of coal in the absence of air, and stored compressed over water under movable domes in two gasometers about 25 metres in diameter. After the arrival of cheaper, non-toxic natural gas the franchise, city-owned since 19zz, was sold in 1958 to Consumers Gas and the redundant gas plant taken down. The money from the sale was then contributed to the founding fund of Trent University.

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Erected by the  
**PETERBOROUGH  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

